



**Consular Section  
EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Santiago, Chile**

**FAX 56-2-330-3005  
Phone 56-2-232-2600  
E-mail: SantiagoAmcit@state.gov**

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## **Security Reminders for Americans in Chile**

### **Important Telephone Numbers**

Carabineros (Police) 133  
Bomberos (Fire) 132  
U.S. Embassy After Hours (2) 330-3700

### **The Threat Against Americans in Chile**

There is no current threat against official or non-official Americans at this time however this can change at anytime. **Avoid making yourself a target.** In light of our current situation with Iraq, we advise you to use extreme caution when displaying such items as college sweatshirts, or anything else that may identify you as 'American'.

### **Crime**

**Street Crime:** Use caution, we currently maintain a medium threat level for street crime. We like to compare this to any large metropolitan area. If you wouldn't do it (insert activity) in Chicago, DC or New York at 3 am please don't do it here.

### **Residential Crime**

**Apartments:** Many have porteros, use them to your advantage to identify visitors. Always secure doors and windows.

**Houses:** Be sure to secure your gates, and lock all doors. Never leave items unattended in your yard, such as bikes, equipment, etc. These can easily be stolen.

### **Public Transportation**

**Buses:** An efficient and relatively inexpensive form of transportation. The buses here are fairly safe, if you are riding on them. Watch out for pick-pocketing and jewelry theft on the bus. The buses can be dangerous if you are driving, a pedestrian, or are riding a bike -- they own the roads. When possible, use sidewalks.

**Train/Metro:** Good source of transportation, however use caution at entry and exit. These areas are prone to general pick-pocketing and/or camera theft.

**Taxis:** Generally reliable. They will take you from point A to point B, and are metered. After dark ensure that you are getting adequate change for your bill. We have heard of drivers claiming they were given a 1000 CHP bill instead of a 10000 CHP bill.

### **Personal Security Guidelines**

**Surveillance:** Pay attention to people who may be watching you. If you are an American, you will more than likely stand out in a crowd. Excluding the obvious curious persons, pay special attention to those you see on more than one occasion or in different locations. **Try to avoid Patterned Behavior.** Patterned behavior makes you susceptible to the bad guy. When they know your route to work/school it increases your level of vulnerability. **Vary your routes.**

### **Emergency Preparedness**

**Earthquake Preparedness:** We DO have earthquakes here in Chile. If we do have an earthquake during your time here, stay calm and be patient. Locate yourself in a doorframe or secure area until it passes.

### **Demonstrations**

Avoid large group gatherings, demonstrations etc. These demonstrations can turn violent at anytime. Areas where you will typically see these gatherings are La Moneda, US Embassy, and other US business icons. If you encounter one of these gatherings or demonstrations avoid it and go the other direction. DO NOT PARTICIPATE.